

REMARKS

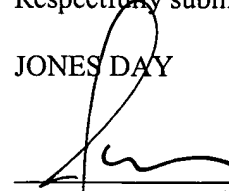
This paper responds to the Office Action mailed on February 09, 2005. Claims 36 and 39-60 are pending. In the Office Action, claims 36 and 39-60 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatenable over claim 1-26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,633,202 ("the '202 patent") Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present application is a continuation of prior application no. 09/833376, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,633,202 ("the parent application"). During prosecution of the parent application, an Office Action was issued on April 03, 2003 in which originally filed claims 1-38 were restricted into three groups of inventions: Group 1 including claims 1-24 and 37-38; Group II including claims 25-35; and Group III including claim 36. The April 03, 2003 Office Action concluded that the inventions of Groups I, II and III are distinct. In response, the Applicants elected to pursue the claims of Group I (1-24 and 37-38) in the parent application. Claims 1-24 and 37-38 of the parent application issued without amendment as claims 1-26 of the '202 patent..

Claim 36 of the present application corresponds to claim 36 of the parent application, which was categorized into Group III. The April 03, 2003 Office Action in the parent case concluded that claim 36 is a distinct invention from the claims of the '202 patent. Claims 39-60 of the present application each ultimately depend from claim 36, and are thus also distinct from the claims of the '202 patent. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 36 and 39-60 under the doctrine of obviousness type double patenting are improper and should be withdrawn. As no other rejections were made, Applicants further submit that claims 36 and 39-60 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is, therefore, respectfully requested to pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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